



Host Site: Center for Arkansas Legal Services

Topic of Project: Beyond Opioids Medical Legal Partnership

Location: Little Rock, AR

Description of Fellow Project:

In 2020, Center for Arkansas Legal Services launched Beyond Opioids as a direct, proactive response to the opioid crisis. Since its launch, Beyond Opioids have assisted in over 3,000 cases, providing legal services to people in active use, treatment, and recovery and their families at high risk for developing substance use disorder (SUD).

The Student Fellow will join the movement led by the Beyond Opioids team in changing the punitive response to a public health crisis. The stigmatization of the disease and people afflicted with it resulted in a history of incarceration, termination of parental rights, enduring criminal records, suspending driver's licenses, insurmountable court fines and fees, and withholding of treatment and other supportive services. To assist Beyond Opioids in a recovery-focused change in community response, the Fellow will work with treatment clinics to access people diagnosed with opioid use disorder, screen their civil legal needs for a successful recovery and re-entry, and work with the Beyond Opioids' advocates in delivering ground-breaking, OUD-specific direct legal services to eligible clients.

Additionally, the Fellow will be assigned to an opioid clinic, once or twice a week, where they will do eligibility screening, and legal interviews for patients with opioid use disorder. They will work with a supervising attorney to learn how level of service decisions are made, gain exposure to the collaborative process of identifying the best strategies to employ in extended services, and learn the process of court appearances. The RSLC Fellow will also be joining recovery groups and other Beyond Opioids partners in outreach events to develop a deeper understanding of the needs of the community as it relates to the impact of the opioid crisis. They will have the opportunity to summarize insights from their experience and propose innovative solutions to the opioid crisis through a project report, created in collaboration with other RSLC Fellows and Beyond Opioids staff attorneys, at the end of the fellowship.

Additional Applicant Qualifications:

The Fellowship will be hybrid. Proficiency in Spanish is preferred.



